

IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COMMISSION ON THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES

A DRAFT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Commission on the Arts and Humanities that in Fiscal Year 2023 a portion of the agency's grantmaking budget continue to be made available for grants to pay rent or mortgage expenses for the operation of a grant recipient's space in the District used to produce or publicly present arts-or-humanities-related work.

Whereas in the District of Columbia, arts and cultural production account for over \$11.8 million and 8.2% of our local economy, contributing over 53,000 jobs;

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic forced 99% of arts producing and presenting organizations to cancel events and programs;

Whereas the nonprofit arts sector has endured tremendous losses of earned revenue due to COVID-19 closures;

Whereas audiences in many instances have been slow to return in full numbers after the re-opening of the city, further limiting organizational revenues;

Whereas the Commission's Facilities and Buildings Rent and Mortgage Relief grant program saw a 43% increase in applications this year, from 87 applications in FY21 to 125 applications in FY22: Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That—

1. it is the sense of the Commission on the Arts and Humanities that many nonprofit arts producing and presenting organizations will face a funding gap in the coming year; and
 2. that in order to address this funding gap, D.C. Official Code § 39-205(c-1)(2)(A) be amended to allow the Commission to award grants in Fiscal Year 2023 to pay rent or mortgage expenses for the operation of a grant recipient's space in the District used to produce or publicly present arts-or-humanities-related work.
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